Biological Resources and Ecosystem Processes

Four streams within the Maury Island Aquatic Reserve support spawning of anadromous fish. Judd Creek supports spawning by coho, chinook and chum salmon in addition to cutthroat trout.

King County DNR has begun sampling at Maury Island State Park, Point Robinson and Burton Park to assess juvenile nearshore habitat and corridor use. Preliminary results suggest salmon are as common along the shores of Maury Island as other areas in King County.

Eelgrass meadows provide habitat and feeding grounds for several important species including juvenile salmonids, Pacific herring, black brandt, and great blue heron.

Washington State has adopted a policy of no net loss of eelgrass habitat due to its considerable importance as a habitat.

Nearshore drift cells describe the movement of sediment along the beach. This process is primarily in response to the oblique approach of wind-generated waves. The movement of sediment along the nearshore is vital to replenishing small sediment washed out to sea by wave energy, streams and rivers. Beaches with small sediment are often productive environments that are used by many species as spawning or nesting habitat.

It is estimated that 6.6 million pounds of geoducks are within the four commercial tracts within the Maury Island Aquatic Reserve. One additional tract is not harvestable due to water quality concerns (tract 10300), however the others appear to be healthy and have supported recent commercial or tribal harvest activity.